

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY P:JJSISCO;DP

APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 249768 TOSEC 160133

NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH US CANAL

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. FYI. DINITZ HAS JUST HAD A TELCON WITH PM RABIN WHICH HE REPORTED TO ME. ISRAELIS CONTEND THAT EGYPTIANS FOLLOW THE PRACTICE OF ALLOWING PASSAGE OF SOUTH AFRICAN CARGO THROUGH THE CANAL. DINITZ SAYS THAT EGYPTIAN PRACTICE IS NOT TO EXAMINE CARGOS FROM NON-SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS. IN SHORT DINITZ SAID THAT WHEN EGYPTIANS SAY THAT ANY SOUTH AFRICAN CARGO TRANSITING SUEZ CANAL "IF DISCOVERED" WOULD BE CONFISCATED, THE FACT IS CARGO IS NOT EXAMINED, THEREFORE THEY ARE NOT NORMALLY DISCOVERED. END FYI.

2. RABIN THEREFORE HAS ASKED THAT WE GO BACK TO FAHMI AND URGE GOE TO PERMIT NETA TO TRANSIT WITHOUT IMPEDIMENT. MY RESPONSE TO DINITZ WAS THAT IF WE GO BACK TO THE EGYPTIANS
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ON THIS BASIS ONCE AGAIN, WE WILL BE TURNED DOWN AND THIS

WILL CAUSE A DETERIORATION IN MOOD WHICH WOULD PROBABLY
DELAY TRANSIT OF ISRAELI CARGO INDEFINITELY.

3. DINITZ RAISED THE POSSIBILITY, WHICH WE MENTIONED AS
A POSSIBILITY IN OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY, OF NETA

OFF-LOADING SOUTH AFRICAN CARGO IN ELATH TAKING ON A NON-
SOUTH AFRICAN CARGO AND THEN TRANSITING THROUGH THE CANAL
ON PRESENT COURSE. AFTER CHECKING WITH RABIN, ISRAELIS
AGREED TO HAVE US TRY THIS OUT AS AN AMERICAN SUGGESTION
TO THE EGYPTIANS AS A WAY OUT. IF THIS PROCEDURE FOLLOWED,
THERE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE SOME DELAY IN TRANSIT.

4. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE CALL FAHMI IMMEDIATELY AND IF
YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET FAHMI TO AGREE TO PERMITTING NETA
TO PROCEED AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED, YOU MAY SUGGEST AS OUR
OWN IDEA THE ABOVE POSSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO OFF-LOADING
PROCEDURE AT ELATH.

5. FYI. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NETA'S DESTINATION, AS
WE PREVIOUSLY INFORMED YOU, IS ASHDOD. WE WOULD HOPE
FAHMI WOULD NOT RAISE THE PROBLEM THAT NEW CARGO WOULD BE
MOVING FROM ONE ISRAELI PORT TO ANOTHER. OBVIOUSLY YOU
SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS QUESTION, BUT I WANT YOU TO BE AWARE
OF IT. END FYI.

6. FINALLY, DENITZ HAS JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER TELCON FROM
RABIN WHO SAYS THAT REPORTS COMING OUT OF CAIRO INDICATING
DELAY OF TRANSIT OF CARGO FOR 10 DAYS IS CAUSING RABIN
DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER ABOVE
REPORT CORRECT. IN ANY EVENT, PLEASE TELL FAHMI HE SHOULD
KEEP A LID ON MEDIA ON THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME
TO WORK IT OUT. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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